

## APPENDIX G: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**AQUIFERS** - an underground geologic formation that stores, transmits, and yields significant quantities of water to wells or springs.

**CAL/BECC** - California Border Environmental Cooperation Commission; an organization created by the Governors of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur to promote cross-border cooperation on environmental issues.

**CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE** - numeric aquatic life criteria and numeric human health criteria for priority toxic pollutants in inland surface waters and enclosed bays and estuaries.

**CEQA** - California Environmental Quality Act; established state policy of environmental protection, enhancement, and maintenance.

**CLEAN WATER ACT** - federal legislation enacted in 1972 to protect fishable, swimmable, and navigable uses of the surface waters in the state.

**COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE & ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE** - developed in 1999 to identify a wide variety of challenges and proposed solutions to improve data management, compliance assurance and enforcement to regulate a better permit requirement, and to improve information access about violations and enforcement for regulators, policy makers, and the general public.

**CROSS-BORDER PROJECT** - a group of Border Initiative staff in support of Cal/EPA that focus on restoring and protecting the California/Mexico

border for public health and the environment, specifically, the Tijuana River, New River, Pacific Ocean off San Diego County, Tecate Creek, and the Alamo River; the staff also provide technical assistance to the State of Baja California.

**DICKEY WATER POLLUTION ACT** - federal legislation allocating the responsibility of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to protect the surface, ground, and coastal waters of their region since 1949. In 1967, the State Water Rights Board and the State Water Quality Control Board were merged to create the State Water Resources Control Board, integrating water rights and water quality decision-making authority.

**E-GOVERNMENT** - the transformation of public-sector internal and external relationships through net-enabled operations, information technology and communications to optimize government service delivery, constituency participation and governance.

**EPIC PROJECT** - Environmental Protection Indicators for California; as part of the implementation of Cal/EPA's Strategic Vision, we are participating in the development of environmental indicators to measure performance results to communicate tracking progress and achieve our strategic plan goals/objectives on an annual and quarterly basis in producing the biggest gains for water quality in California.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** - the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



*Mono Lake, Region 6*

### **EFFLUENT DOMINATED WATERS (EDW) PROJECT**

- a project being developed to provide water quality protection in effluent dominated waters to provide guidance and, if appropriate, a State Water Board policy for water quality control, or Regional Water Board basin plan amendments.

**MTBE** - methyl tertiary butyl ether; a synthetic chemical compound used in the blending of gasoline as an additive to reduce air pollution. An oxygenate, water soluble both in gasoline and water with high octane value. Governor Davis has issued Executive Order D-5-99 to phase out the use of MTBE in California by December 2002 due to the contamination in our drinking water.

**NPDES** - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to satisfy federal requirements of the Clean Water Act and state requirements; issued for up to five years and generally includes narrative and/or numeric effluent limitations to implement water quality standards--under state law it is officially called a waste discharge requirement (WDR).

**NONPOINT SOURCE (NPS) POLLUTION** - discharges of waste throughout the natural environment; major causes of water pollution and difficult to pinpoint physically but can be classified as urban runoff, agriculture, mining, septic tank leach fields, or forestry.

**OAL** - Office of Administrative Law; a state office charged with administering the Administrative Procedures Act, reviewing and approving regulations for other

state agencies, which, once approved, are codified in the California Code of Regulations.

**PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)** - AB 982 Public Advisory Group - an advisory group of interested persons convened by the SWRCB to evaluate the structure and effectiveness of the state's program to implement Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. The PAG has developed recommendations on ambient monitoring, site listing and delisting, TMDL development, and TMDL implementation.

**REMEDIATION** - referencing the financial cost in the act of repairing and/or cleaning up property contamination in a certain piece of property.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)**  
- incorporating feedback of assessment findings into the regulatory process and the development of innovative aquifer protection programs.

**SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)**  
- the coordination of surface water monitoring efforts for comprehensive, non-duplicative, and appropriately funded management.

**SWIM 2 PROJECT** - a System for Water Information Management project in existence to provide automated tools and standardize business processes to

improve State and Regional Boards' ability to enhance and preserve the quality of water through electronic media. Existing capabilities will be expanded to include all licensing and monitoring programs, automating manual processes, allowing electronic submissions of reports, relevant data, making Internet data accessible, and providing tools for integrated watershed assessment and management.

**TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDL)** - the total daily maximum allowable load of contaminants and pollutants that can be discharged to a certain water body in a given day.

**WATERSHED** - a geographical area in which water, solids, sediments and dissolved materials flow to a common outlet -- a point on a larger stream, a lake, an underlying aquifer, an enclosed bay, an estuary, or the Pacific Ocean.

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (WMI)** - the overarching framework used in addressing nonpoint source pollution; as part of the 1995 Strategic Plan, the WMI was developed to provide water resource protection, enhancement, and restoration while balancing economic and environmental impacts; integrating federally-mandated and state programs into a more holistic watershed approach.

# STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD



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